Get Involved

Yes, I want to get involved in\ support the November 12 Committee

Name _____

Address _____

_____ P.code _____

Phone _____ ☐ Our organisation would like to sponsor the committee

Enclosed is a donation to the campaign of $_____ Cheques to: Australia-East Timor Association

Return to: November 12 Committee, C\- AETA,
PO BOX 93, Fitzroy 3065

CONTACT THE NOVEMBER 12 COMMITTEE

AETA (Australia-East-Timor Association) - 9416 2960

AKSI (Indonesia Solidarity Action- 9329 1277)

CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance) - 9568 0438

FRETILIN - 9700 7235

INITIAL SPONSORS INCLUDE:

AETA, AKSI, CNRM, FRETILIN.

EAST TIMOR TIME TO ACT

JOIN, SPONSOR, CONTRIBUTE TO

THE NOVEMBER 12 DILI MASSACRE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

TL 2338

The Santa Cruz Massacre

On November 12, 1991, Indonesian troops opened fire on peaceful East Timorese demonstrators at Dili's Santa Cruz cemetery.

Hundreds of people died. Some were killed by gunfire at the cemetery, others were murdered in cold blood after being taken into custody.

The anniversary of the massacre has become a focal point for protests against Indonesia's brutal occupation of East Timor. This year, demonstrations will be held in every major city in Australia, as well as in many other parts of the world.

The Santa Cruz massacre is not an isolated case. More than 200,000 Timorese have died since Indonesia invaded in 1975.

The struggle for independence

East Timor was a Portuguese colony for several centuries. After the fall of the Portuguese dictatorship in 1974, many Timorese began demanding independence.

The Indonesian regime headed by Suharto - who came to power in a military coup in 1965, massacring a million Indonesians - was not prepared to allow the creation of an independent, democratic East Timor on its doorstep. After months of harassment and border incursions, Indonesia launched a full scale invasion of East Timor in December 1975.

The Timorese have continued to resist the Indonesian occupation, both through guerrilla warfare in the mountains, and through protests in the cities - such as the demonstration that culminated in the Santa Cruz massacre.

Australia's role

Successive Australian governments, both Labor and Liberal, have supported the Suharto dictatorship and its occupation of East Timor.

Australia trains Indonesian officers and Special Forces troops, sells weapons and military equipment, and holds joint military exercises. Australian diplomacy also supports the Indonesian occupation of East Timor in international forums such as the United Nations.

Australia has agreed with Indonesia to divide up the oil of the Timor Gap, part of which rightly belongs to the people of East Timor.

Opposition within Indonesia

The Australian government's policy is justified on the grounds of "friendship with Indonesia". But opposition to the Indonesian occupation of East Timor is growing inside Indonesia itself despite the risk of repression. Prominent Indonesian academic George Aditjondro has spoken out strongly against the occupation. Recently Indonesian unionists, students and others have formed SPRIM - an organisation in solidarity with the people of East Timor.

What we can do

We must do what we can to bring pressure to bear on the Australian government to reverse its policies.

Already our protests have had an impact. Indonesia was forced to withdraw its appointment of General Mantiri - who defended the Santa Cruz massacre - as ambassador to Australia. But we need to do more. We should demand that our government:

*withdraw recognition of Indonesia's occupation of East Timor
*Recognise the legitimate representatives of the East Timorese people - Fretilin, UDT, and CNRM
*suspend all military cooperation with the Suharto government until Indonesian troops are withdrawn from East Timor
*grant refugee status to East Timorese fleeing from the occupation of their country

How you can help

*Sponsor the November 12 rally. Add your name or the name of your organisation to the public endorsement of the rally
*Contribute funds to the rally, so we can organise the maximum publicity and educational material
*Come to organising meetings
*Come to the rally